

(b) if so, the reasons for under-utilization of the said fund; and

(c) the steps taken to expedite implementation of the Ganga Action Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) to (c). Under the Ganga Action Plan Phase-I, utilization of funds, has largely been as per the budget estimates. There was some shortfall in utilization of funds during 1994-95 and 1995-96 because of delay in land acquisition and contractual problems. These impediments have since been overcome.

[English]

#### Wildlife Conservation

\*166. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN :  
SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have seen report by the Environmental Investigative Agency, a UK based NGO, about the dismal performance and serious crisis in the India's wild life conservation efforts particularly, the Project Tiger and Project Elephant; and

(b) if so, reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The report is a critique on India's Wildlife Conservation efforts, with special reference to Project Tiger. No specific mention has been made about Project Elephant. The various issues raised in the report are pertinent but some of them have been highly exaggerated and not based on facts. The report, however, has not dealt adequately with international market forces which is the root cause of decline of tiger population all over the world including India and how to overcome such forces outside India. The report also completely ignores the positive aspects and achievements of the Wildlife Conservation effort over the years in the country. The shortcomings highlighted in the report are already receiving attention of Government.

[Translation]

#### Krishi Vigyan Kendras in Bihar

\*167. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal to set up Krishi Vigyan Kendras in several districts of Bihar is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the names of districts where Krishi Vigyan Kendras are proposed to be set up;

(c) whether locations for the same have been identified;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the funds proposed to be provided to the State Government for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following districts in Bihar are under consideration alongwith other districts in the country.

1. Araria
2. Aurangabad
3. Bhagalpur
4. East Champaran
5. Santhal Pargana (Dumka)
6. Kishanganj
7. Lohardaga
8. Palamau
9. Purnea
10. Vaishali
11. Muzaffarpur
12. East Singhbhooni
13. Rohtas
14. Daltanganj

(c) and (d). The locations of the centre are identified when the additional funds are allocated to the Council by the Planning Commission.

(e) The funds are released directly to the host Institution identified for implementing the Krishi Vigyan Kendra.

[English]

#### Involvement of Foreign Intelligence Agencies with Extremists

\*168. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN :  
SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the involvement of ISI, CIA and other foreign intelligence agencies with the extremists of the North-Eastern States; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to check foreign intelligence agencies?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) The Government are aware of the involvement of Inter Service Intelligence (ISI) of Pakistan and Directorate General of Field Intelligence (DGFI) of Bangladesh with extremists of the North-

Eastern States. There are no such reports regarding involvement of the CIA.

(b) Several steps have been taken to check the involvement of Pak ISI and the Bangladesh DGFI which, inter-alia, include increased surveillance along the borders, improved collection and sharing of intelligence, deployment of Army and Central Para Military Forces, financial assistance to the North-Eastern States for modernisation/strengthening of State Police Forces and diplomatic initiatives with neighbouring countries.

[Translation]

#### **Ramagundam Fertilizer Plant**

\*169. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

SHRI SYDAIAH KOTA :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to news-item captioned "Ramagundam fertilizer plant shut down", appearing in 'The Pioneer', dated September 9, 1996;

(b) if so, whether the production work ceased in the plant due to the non-availability of coal;

(c) if so, the quantum of loss in the production as a result thereof and the number of days for which the production work was ceased; and

(d) the measures taken for ensuring regular supply of coal to the unit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). The plant was shutdown from 21.8.1996 to 18.9.1996 for want of coal. The production activities started on 19.9.1996 and the normal production was resumed on 25.9.1996. There was a production loss of about 35,000 tonnes of Urea on account of non-availability of coal. As a result of close coordination with the Government of A.P. and the SCCL, the supply of coal to the plant has improved.

[English]

#### **Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation Limited**

\*170. SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the studies carried out by the Government/experts established that the gas based Namrup Unit of the Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation Limited can be turned around into an economically viable unit;

(b) whether segregation of this unit from other units at Haldia, Durgapur etc. is considered to be an essential prerequisite for its restoration to a viable unit; and

(c) if so, whether the Government have decided to restructure HFC and go ahead with the bifurcation of Namrup unit as a separate corporate unit without waiting for the final recommendation of BIFR in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA):

(a) Technical studies have confirmed the techno-economic viability of a modest revamp of the Namrup units of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFC) to take care of the critical and trouble prone equipment with a view to achieving higher capacity utilisation and economy in plant operations.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No decision has been taken to segregate the Namrup units with a view to formulating a revival package independent of other units of HFC.

HFC as a company was declared sick by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). The ultimate decision on the revival of the company, including its Namrup units, would depend upon the final outcome of the proceedings pending before the BIFR, which is a quasi judicial authority.

#### **Social Forestry Projects**

\*171. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state.

(a) whether the social forestry projects in all the States have had negative growth after introduction of the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana in 1989;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve performance under the social forestry projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) to (c). Annual targets are fixed for afforestation and tree planting activities under the 20-Point Programme in two parts: the first is for seedlings distribution for planting on private lands and the second is in terms of area for public lands, including forest lands. The plantations undertaken as part of social forestry are included therein.

The targets and achievements for both seedlings distribution and area coverage have shown a downward trend from 1989 onwards. This is essentially because of inadequate availability of funds for the sector. There has also been a decline in the fund flow from the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana for tree plantation activity in this period.

The Government have been encouraging cost effective measures by way of the increased participation by local communities in forestry projects and through joint forest management.